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WE NOMINATE

Charles Rosenbury Erdman Jr., public servant extraordinary and one of this community's most distinguished residents, who on New Year's Day for the sixth time in 12 years will take the oath of office as Mayor of the Borough of Princeton. A member of the Class of 1919 at Princeton University and the first son of a Princeton Man of the Week (TOWN TOPICS, Sept. 29-Oct. 5, 1946) to follow his father on to the front page, Erdman personifies as well as any man of his time the ideal so emphatically enunciated by Woodrow Wilson, "Princeton in the Nation's Service."

Born a half-century ago in Germantown, Pa., Erdman is a unique elective official in that he has devoted more than two decades to studying and actually raising the standards of public administration throughout New Jersey. After completing his war-interrupted undergraduate career at Princeton, where he helped make track history as captain of a championship team, he took his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees at Princeton and for eight years held forth as a member of the Department of Politics. Significantly enough, the subject of his doctoral thesis in 1928 was "The History of the New Jersey Constitution of 1776," an authoritative document that reflected his abiding interest in constitutional reform for the State.

Erdman, defeated for the Assembly in 1934 but elevated to the Borough Mayoralty the following year, was catapulted into the spotlight as research associate of the Princeton Local Government Survey. His series of brilliant studies on crazy-quilt patterns of governmental organization paved the way for his appointment in 1940 as director of the New Jersey Municipal Aid Administration. Hailed by *The New York Herald Tribune* for displaying "impressive qualifications for public service of a high order," he was next tapped as chairman of the key Commission on State Administrative Reorganization.

At every turn he fought effectively for constitutional revision and in 1944 was named Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Economic Development, a new department in which were combined functions previously performed by seven separate agencies. His continuing services to the entire state in this vital position, highlighted by his handling of veterans' affairs and the supervision of state planning activities, have brought him deserved recognition as "heir apparent" to Governor Alfred J. Driscoll.

For continually translating into tangible accomplishments a "sincere desire to contribute to the best of my ability;" for insisting that issues be faced squarely and not treated as political untouchables; for unwavering loyalty to the principles upon which democratic self-government was founded; he is TOWN TOPICS' candidate for

**PRINCETON'S
MAN OF THE WEEK**

Dec. 28, 1947-Jan. 3, 1948

PATRON

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Town Topics

Published Every Thursday throughout the Year

DONALD C. STUART, JR.
DAN D. COYLE
Editors and Publishers

Mailed without charge every week to every home in Princeton Borough and Township.
Advertising Rates on Application.

Box 371 Princeton, N. J. Telephone 2326

Vol. II, No. 42 Dec. 28-Jan. 3, 1948

Topics of the Town

Christmas, 1947. This is quite a story. It's a bigger story than any of the individuals or organizations involved in the Christmas appeal published in last week's TOWN TOPICS. It's bigger even than Princeton itself, although what has transpired in the last few days showed this to be a finer community than even the most ardent Princetonians might have suspected. It's big, really, because it's the familiar, ageless, heart-warming story of Christmas itself.

Last week, for the first time since it began to publish nearly two years ago, TOWN TOPICS omitted its customary nomination for Man of the Week, issued instead a Christmas appeal. Funds were sought for a family of 14 whose daily struggle for existence has been barely successful, yet so continuous and courageous that it merited every word written on its behalf. Somehow, the calendar on the kitchen wall in their home had only a blank space where December 25 should have been.

To provide a good Christmas dinner, to purchase such necessities as kitchen utensils, sheets, blankets and winter clothing for six of the youngest children, a request was made for \$200. This year, this is Princeton's Christmas story: gifts amounting to \$1,003.60 have been received from 201 contributors and as

(Continued on page three)

HOT WATER BOTTLES—Baby size, 98 cents; adult size, \$1.98, \$2.98, \$3.98 They make excellent bedfellows on cold nights! Thorne the Druggist, 168 Nassau Street.

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for a

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May Your Every Day

in the New Year

Be Happy and Healthy!

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TOPICS OF THE TOWN

(Continued from page two)

TOWN TOPICS went to press, contributions were still coming in.

It should be stressed at the outset that every penny of the "surplus" will be as welcome and as well-spent as the first \$200. Princeton's fast, generous response has enabled the Social Service Bureau to make long-range plans that will aid the family well into 1948, may even help meet bills when seasonal unemployment reduces the family income in the Summer. Those who gave, and now know their response brought five times the sum originally sought, can be certain that results five times as worthwhile can now be achieved.

The detailed story of the giving is as varied as it is appealing. Motivated by the personalized aspect of the facts and the discovery in their midst of a family so deserving, Princetonians reacted this way:

Checks, cash and money orders were mailed to TOWN TOPICS at the rate of nearly 40 a day the first five days after the issue had appeared. Gifts of clothing were taken direct to the Social Service Bureau. A bicycle was among the presents received, while Manager Charles P. Winkelmann of the Princeton Playhouse sent 14 tickets for the show on Christmas Day.

The Pistol Club of the Princeton Police Department dipped into its treasury.
(Continued on page four)

THE BEST REMEDY for that cough or cold is your doctor's prescription. Thorne the Druggist, 168 Nassau Street.

ALWAYS CARRY A BAG OF CALCITE CRYSTALS in your car for snow driving. You don't have to shovel or find ashes. Just sprinkle a handful of these crystals and you will be helped out of your trouble. No fuss, no mess. Get a bag now and "be prepared." Rosedale, Inc. (plenty of parking), 262 Alexander Street, Tel. 134.

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You
the
Happiest
Christmas Season



Merry Christmas

MAYME MEAD

OF

PRINCETON, INC.

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TOPICS OF THE TOWN

(Continued from page three)

ury to make a gift. The staff in the registrar's office at Princeton University cancelled a Christmas party, gave the money instead to the Christmas appeal. Post Office employees asked for progress reports when the mail was called for.

Letters that accompanied the gifts (which ranged from under \$1 to \$25) further reflected the Christmas spirit: One woman wrote, "This is the kind of Christmas giving that I enjoy." Another sent a contribution despite a "stretched budget," and a third commented, "We thought we had done all we could for others this year. Then your appeal came. Thank you for printing it."

A young brother and sister took 35 cents from their savings "to help the
(Continued on page eight)

Wishing You
a
Happy New Year

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Calendar of the Week

Saturday, December 27th

8:00-10:00 p.m.: Public Skating, Baker Rink.

Sunday, December 28th

7:00, 8:30, 10:00, 11:00 a.m.: Mass, St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church.

11:00 a.m.: Address, the Rev. Victor B. Stanley Jr., Trinity Church.

"Yesterday, Today and Forever," the Rev. Dr. Frank S. Niles; First Church.

"Time to Make Room for God," the Rev. Dr. William L. Tucker; First Service in Second Century; Second Church.

"The Things That Remain," the Rev. Milton A. Galamison; Witherspoon Presbyterian Church.

"We Must Love The Highest," the Rev. Lynn H. Corson; Methodist Church.

"When The Christ Child Enters The Heart," the Rev. Milton J. Nauss; Lutheran Service; Westminster Chapel.

"Christian Science," Lesson-Sermon; First Church of Christ, Scientist.

University Preacher, Professor George F. Thomas; University Chapel.

Friends Meeting for Worship; Murray-Dodge Hall, University Campus.

8:00 p.m.: "Forward March," the Rev. Dr. Niles; First Church.

"New Life and The New Year," the Rev. Galamison; Witherspoon Presbyterian Church.

8:00-10:00 p.m.: Public Skating, Baker Rink.

8:15 p.m.: Evening Service; First Church of Christ, Scientist.

Monday, December 29th

8:00-10:00 p.m.: Public Skating, Baker Rink; other sessions this week on Tuesday (2:00-5:00 p.m.) and Friday (8:00-10:00 p.m.).

Wednesday, December 31st

8:15 p.m.: Mid-Week Service; First Church of Christ, Scientist.

11:00 p.m.: Watch Service, Witherspoon Presbyterian Church.

11:20 p.m.: Annual Watch Night Service, preceded by Fellowship Hour beginning at 10:30 p.m.; Second Church.

11:30 p.m.: New Year's Eve Service, with the Rev. Dr. Charles R. Erdman delivering the New Year's Message; service to

(Continued on page seven)

SEASON'S
GREETINGS

1947-1948

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News of the Theatres

The Playhouse

Unfinished Dance (Fri., Sat.) sends child star Margaret O'Brien tripping through life in the ballet, with her love of one dancer and hatred of another motivating the plot. Better for its artistic qualities than for the routine story.

Where There's Life (Sun. thru Wed.) there's Hope (Bob, in this instance.) His latest spins a fast but not always funny yarn about a mythical kingdom to which he is crown prince and the efforts of Signe Hasso to get him simultaneously on the throne and to the altar. Some moments are quite hilarious.

Golden Earrings (Thurs., Fri., Sat.) casts Marlene Dietrich as a dark-skinned gypsy in a semi-comic role and Ray Milland as a somewhat embarrassed Englishman, who experience numerous adventures together in Germany. The whole endeavor never quite jelled.

The Garden

The Red Stallion (Fri., Sat.) suffers from a mundane plot (about young Ted Donaldson and his likeable horse) and the poor technical effects of Cine-Color.

Pirates of Monterey (Mon., Tues., Wed.) is a somewhat better, though very obvious, adventure drama set on the California coast in the 1800's and showing Spanish Royalists battling Mexican rule. Maria Montez, Rod Cameron.

The Fabulous Texan (Thurs., Fri., Sat.), with a Southwest locale in post-Civil War days, pits carpet-baggers against police, stirs in bandits, robberies and pitched battles to keep the pot boiling. Recommended for melodrama fans.

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TUNE IN "THE SHADOW" EVERY SUNDAY AFTERNOON

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK*(Continued from page five)*

be preceded by reception from 10:00-11:30; First Church.

New Years Day

9:30 a.m.: Communion Service, Trinity Church.

Noon: Reorganization Meeting of Borough Council; Induction of Mayor Charles R. Erman Jr.; Borough Hall.

Saturday, January 3d

8:30 p.m.: Hockey: Princeton University vs. St. Lawrence; Baker Rink.

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T'was the night before Christmas, and oh, what a rumpus!
As seeking us out from all points of the compass,
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For spreading the message of good will towards men.
"Come salesman, come saleslady, show us your wares."
Gifts, books, cards, that show "Somebody cares."
For Sis with her kerchief, and Mom with her smile,
And Grand-pop and Daddy who like 'em old-style,
"We want something special for giddy Aunt Susie,
And staid Uncle James who's decidedly choosy."
We took in our stride all the din and clatter,
Reminding ourselves these were important matters,
Assuring our clients in terms specific
That though present prices are "simply terrific,"
That doesn't always hold true with the gift shop "biz."
With presents rolling along like a whiz.
And so as our satisfied clients departed,
We watched from the windows, serene and lighthearted.
Secure in the knowledge we'd added once more
To the pleasure of Christmas as often before.
And we gladly exclaimed to each person in sight,
"Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!"

May Christmas morning be a morning of happiness.
May 1948 be a year of prosperity for you, and may we
have the pleasure of further serving you during the com-
ing year.

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TELEVISION—RADIOS—RECORDS—BOOKS—GIFTS

TOPICS OF THE TOWN

(Continued from page four)

fund for poor children and their parents," while a contrasting thought came from the donor of one of the \$25 gifts: "The family you describe on the first page of your current issue is a rare and precious thing in these days of an advanced liberalism."

Gifts arrived from every part of Princeton and were wholly representative of the community. Possibly this comment best typified reaction: "This, to me, is the finest way to make the Princeton community feel closer and share with others the true spirit of Christmas."

Time has not allowed for a full report on results of the appeal, of the first use to which the funds are being put, or of the gratitude felt and expressed by the family. That will come later, but with Christmas came the full knowledge that Princeton had achieved a community demonstration as heart-warming as it was spontaneous and complete.

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